

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1001 K STREET, SUITE 806
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 (916) 445-8448
 FAX (916) 323-0280



State of California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of May 6, 1993

ITEM NO.PAGE NO.

1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes	2
CONSENT CALENDAR * (Items #3-6, 9, 13, 18-21)	3
* 3. Funding Status	3
* 4. Recovery of Funds	6

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

* 5. Santa Cruz Fishing Pier, Santa Cruz County	9
* 6. Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access (Parking Lot), Merced County	11
7. Vallejo Fishing Pier (CEQA Permits), Solano County	13
8. Monte Rio Fishing Access, Sonoma County	16

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19)/
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)

* 9. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects	18
A. Alpine Creek Denil Fishway, San Mateo County	19
B. Bear Creek Barrier Modification, Mendocino County	19
C. Bluff Creek Habitat Enhancement #4, Humboldt County	20
D. North Fork Bluff/Scorpion Creeks Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County	20
E. Perazzo Creek Habitat Enhancement, Sierra County	20
F. Red Cap Creek Habitat Enhancement #4, Humboldt County	21
G. Upper Parsnip Creek Fish Passage, Lassen County	21
H. Willits Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County	21

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND
CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70)**

10.	Paynes Creek Wetlands #2, Tehama County	23
11.	Sonoma Baylands Tidal Marsh Restoration, Sonoma County	25
12.	Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve, Exp. #1, San Diego County	27

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)

*13.	Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Exp. #5, Tulare County	29
14.	Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Exp. #1, Tehama County	30

**CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)**

15.	Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 283-L, Shasta County	33
-----	---	----

**CA. WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND (P-70)/
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)/
INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

16.	Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Exp. #5, Glenn County	35
-----	--	----

**HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)/
INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

17.	Stillbow Water Delivery System, Merced County	39
*18.	Mud Slough Wetlands Restoration, Merced County	41

**PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND
TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND (P-99)**

*19.	Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish and Game)	42
A.	Senator Outing Duck Club (480± acres), Yolo County	43
B.	Yolo Basin Farms, Inc. (158± acres), Yolo County	44

OTHER BUSINESS

*20.	Resolution Honoring Senator Robert Presley	45
*21.	Resolution Honoring Senator David Roberti	45
	Program Statement	47

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

801 K STREET, SUITE 806
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-8448
FAX (916) 323-0280



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 6, 1993

Pursuant to the call of Chairman Benjamin Biaggini, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 126 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on May 6, 1993. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call**Present:****WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS**

Benjamin Biaggini, Chairman
President, Fish and Game Commission
Susanne Burton, Member
Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Boyd Gibbons, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Pat Johnston
Ross Sargent
Vice, Senator Johnston
Senator Dan Mc Corquodale
Krist Lane
Vice, Senator Thompson
Assemblyman Dan Hauser
Mary Morgan
Vice, Assemblyman Hauser
Rick Battson
Vice, Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg

Absent:

Assemblyman Jim Costa
Alternate: Senator Daniel Boatwright

Minutes of Meeting, May 6, 1993
Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff Present: W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
Clyde Edon, Assistant Executive Director
Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent/Assistant Executive Director
Bob Schulenburg, Field Agent
Howard Dick, Senior Land Agent
Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent
Georgia Lipphardt, Senior Land Agent
Debbie Townsend, Associate Land Agent
Marilyn Cundiff-Gee, Wetlands Program Manager
Sylvia Gude, Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel, Executive Secretary
Jan Beeding, Office Technician

Others Present: Karen Hayden, U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe
Dennis Beardsley, Greater Vallejo Recreation District
Ed Smith, Department of Fish and Game, Fresno
Pat Perkins, Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova
Glenn Rollins, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento
Don Koch, Department of Fish and Game, Redding
Jack Harrell, City of Santa Cruz
Dannettee Shoemaker, City of Santa Cruz
Steve Zimmerman, Department of Finance
Frank MacBride, Citizen
John Beam, Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos
Don Marciochi, Grasslands Water District
Bill Gaines, California Waterfowl Association
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust
Michael Gentle, Monte Rio Recreation and Park District
Holly Liberato, Hopkins-Liberation & Associates
Mary Shallenberger, Senator McCorquodale's Office
Jenna Battson, Citizen

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the March 9, 1993, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE MINUTES OF
THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF
MARCH 9, 1993, BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT CALENDAR *(Items #3-6, 9, 13, 18-21)

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item Nos. 3-6, 9, 13, 18-21 were listed as Consent Calendar Items in the Agenda. Mr. Schmidt indicated that there was a minor change in Item #4, Recovery of Funds, Noyo River Fishing Access, Mendocino County, the balance to recover should be \$ -0- and not \$24,702.25, all funds were spent on that project. Mr. Schmidt gave the audience and/or Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the consent calendar. He then recommended a vote on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS NOS. 3-6, 9, 13, 18-21, WITH THE CORRECTION AS NOTED ABOVE IN ITEM #4, AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

*** 3. Funding Status as of May 6, 1993 (Information Only) (CONSENT CALENDAR)**

(a) 1992/93 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 200,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 51,031.39
Unallocated Balance	\$ 148,968.61

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 600,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-347,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 252,500.00

(b) 1991/92 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 310,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-310,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

(c) 1989/90 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Added to Governor's Budget by Ch. 1241	\$ 950,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 940,038.50
Unallocated Balance	\$ 9,961.50

(d) 1992/93 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Reappropriation of 1989/90 - Stream Projects	\$2,044,100.49
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 187,710.24
Unallocated Balance	\$1,856,390.25

(e) 1990/91 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$1,740,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 1,165,466.70
Unallocated Balance	\$ 574,533.30

(f) 1992/93 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$2,000,000.00
-------------------	----------------

(g) 1991/92 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 3,041,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$1,959,000.00

(h) 1988/89 California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board	\$81,300,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-58,426,868.64
Less State Administrative Costs	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$21,653,631.36

(i) 1990/91 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$ 985,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 453,400.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 531,600.00

(j) 1992/93 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$ 9,194,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 1,447,800.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 7,746,200.00

(k) 1991/92 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget -	
Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,822,599.90</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 177,400.10
Governor's Budget - Unallocated	\$ 1,682,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,434,392.90</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 247,607.10
Governor's Budget -	
Upper Sacramento River Basin	\$ 1,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>- 226,964.77</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 773,035.23

(l) 1990/91 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$10,800,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-10,726,839.09</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 73,160.91

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Acquisition	\$ 148,968.61
Minor Development	\$ 252,500.00
Major Development	\$ -0-

1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund \$ 2,430,923.55

Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 \$21,653,631.36

Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund \$ 3,959,000.00

Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund \$ 531,600.00

Habitat Conservation Fund \$ 9,017,403.34

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 11 projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It was recommended that the following totals be recovered:

\$100.00 to the **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,**
\$51,941.13 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund,**
\$1,861.00 to the **Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988,**
\$109,205.65 to the **Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund,**

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Noyo River Fishing Access, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$65,000.00
Expended	<u>-65,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$ -0-

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Kiler Creek, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$55,700.00
Expended	<u>-55,600.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 100.00

Total Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries . . \$100.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Beaver Creek Rearing, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$21,449.00
Expended	<u>-14,535.67</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,913.33

Fall River Bank Stabilization, Shasta County

Allocation	\$30,100.00
Expended	<u>-22,872.83</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,227.17

Gilsizer Slough Wetlands, Sutter County

Allocation	\$640,000.00
Expended	<u>-623,001.54</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 16,998.46

Mud Slough Wetlands, Merced County

Allocation	\$570,000.00
Expended	<u>-553,562.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 16,438.00

Peppermint Creek, Tulare County

Allocation	\$4,400.00
Expended	<u>-2,845.83</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,554.17

Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Calaveras County

Allocation	\$205,000.00
Expended	<u>-202,190.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,810.00

Wildcat Creek Bank Stabilization, Contra Costa County

Allocation	\$30,100.00
Expended	<u>-30,100.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$51,941.13

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION
FUND OF 1988**

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 171.8-L, Glenn County

Allocation	\$4,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,139.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,861.00

**Total Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation
Fund Recoveries \$1,861.00**

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

**Santa Lucia Mountains, Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve,
Monterey County**

Allocation	\$490,000.00
Expended	<u>-380,794.35</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$109,205.65

**Total Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation
Fund Recoveries \$109,205.65**

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE 11 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 6-8 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS, NOTING THE CHANGE FOR THE NOYO RIVER FISHING ACCESS, MENDOCINO COUNTY PROJECT, WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, THAT THE BALANCE FOR RECOVERY SHOULD BE \$-0- AND NOT \$24,702.25 AS SHOWN IN THE AGENDA. RECOVER TOTALS INCLUDE \$100.00 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$51,941.13 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, \$1,861.00 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988, AND \$109,205.65 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 5. Santa Cruz Fishing Pier, Santa Cruz County \$40,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal from the City of Santa Cruz to share in the cost of repairing the decking in two locations on the Santa Cruz Pier. The Santa Cruz Pier was first expanded to accommodate demand for fishing space in 1960 with a WCB allocation of \$49,550. This was followed in 1970 with an allocation of \$109,000, which was matched by the City, for a further expansion which provided additional fishing access and parking space. The third phase of expansion was approved by the Board in 1975 with an allocation of \$60,000.

This pier, which was originally constructed in 1914, is one of the few coastal access points in northern California which is available to a full range of vehicle, pedestrian, boating, and recreational activities. Over the years the City of Santa Cruz has continually improved the pier through construction of new commercial, recreational, and fishing facilities, and other structural improvements. It serves approximately four million visitors each year by car, boat, bicycle and foot, with an estimated 50 percent of these visitors coming from outside the Santa Cruz area. The pier also has the unique distinction of being fully accessible to physically impaired and handicapped persons. Fishing use of this pier is steady, with very heavy use at times. Anglers can expect catches of a variety of fish including perch, sculpin, kingfish, flounder, smelt, mackerel, halibut, salmon, anchovy, red crab and rock crab.

The proposed project involves the removal and replacement of decking in the Agora and Commons areas of the pier; areas which have experienced severe asphalt deterioration. The results of this deterioration is numerous fractures, cracks, and uneven surfaces which allow for the potential danger of tripping and stumbling by the many anglers and other persons who use this area. Repair of this area is also urgently needed to prevent leaks through these cracks from causing the slow disintegration of the underlying plywood and eventually the underlying pier supports.

The total project will involve removal of the existing three inch asphalt pavement and supporting plywood base and replacing them with new asphalt paving and supporting subflooring. The area to be replaced is approximately 22,000 square feet, stretching from the edge of the pier roadway to the railing at the edge of the pier.

The proposed work has been reviewed by three contractors and a firm bid proposal has been received with a cost of \$71,741, not including the removal of the existing plywood decking. The cost of removing the decking is estimated to be approximately \$25,000. This portion of the project will be performed by city crews. To help fund this work the city is seeking \$40,000 from the Wildlife Conservation Board. In keeping with the Board's policy of requiring a 50 percent match on coastal pier projects, the City of Santa Cruz is proposing to match WCB funds with \$30,000 in cash and \$25,000 of in-kind labor. Following is a recap of the project costs and funding sources:

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

FUNDING SOURCE

Removal of existing decking

\$25,000
(in-kind City Labor)

Replacement of new asphalt
supported by subflooring and
new reinforcing fabric

\$40,000 (WCB)
\$30,000 (City)

The entire subflooring and existing asphalt decking will be removed and replaced with new subflooring, reinforcing fabric and asphalt. The new asphalt will be designed to standards already utilized in other areas of the pier which have demonstrated a longer useful life than the current asphalt decking in the Agora and Commons Area.

The city, as lead agency, has filed the appropriate Notice of Exemption as required under CEQA. They have also passed a resolution to extend the existing Cooperative Agreement and Lease with the Department of Fish and Game for Operation and Maintenance and continues to support this long-term public fishing access project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the renovation of decking in the Agora and Commons areas of the Santa Cruz Pier as proposed; allocate \$40,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE RENOVATION OF DECKING IN THE AGORA AND COMMONS AREAS OF THE SANTA CRUZ FISHING PIER, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, IN COOPERATION AND ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, AS PROPOSED, ALLOCATE \$40,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- * 6. Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access (Parking Lot), Merced County \$48,845.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This project was proposed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the construction of a parking lot on the Los Banos Wildlife Area to provide public access to the Los Banos Wildlife Area as well as the Salt Slough Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area and the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. The Los Banos WLA is located just east of the junction of Highway 165 and Wolfsen Road, approximately six miles north of the City of Los Banos.

In addition to being a major wildlife area, the Los Banos WLA also contains an office for on site management operations as well as for management of all DFG administered lands in the northern portion of Region 4. This, coupled with the fact that this wildlife area has increased in size by 57 percent since the current parking area was constructed, renders this area too small to meet the Los Banos WLA needs, let alone the needs of two additional wildlife areas as described below.

The construction of the new parking lot at the Los Banos WLA is the beginning of what the DFG plans, if future funding permits, as an eventual parking area, check station, visitor center complex. In addition to providing parking and a check station for the Los Banos WLA, the facility will also serve the Salt Slough Unit of the North Grasslands WLA, which currently has no facilities, and the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. While the latter area is federally owned, DFG, in a 1990 cooperative agreement, assumed the responsibility for the operation of a public hunting program on this and other refuges. As part of this agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to remove check stations and overnight parking from this area.

Completion of the proposed parking area will allow the DFG to establish a centralized check station in time for the 1993 waterfowl hunting season. To facilitate its use as a check station, DFG plans to install appropriate entrance and exit gates and place a portable office/check station on the site. This facility will not only provide a centralized area for hunting but in so doing will also provide a more efficient and less costly operation for DFG. In fact, it is estimated that a single check station may save three to four person-days each hunt day.

The following cost estimates were compiled by Department staff working in the Los Banos vicinity and are based on quotation from appropriate contractors and costs of similar work recently completed.

Administration, Engineering and Design

To be accomplished
by DFG staff. No
cost to WCB.

Placement of 9± inches of fill over the entire project site. 5,521± cubic yards of fill moved at a price of \$1/yard.

\$ 5,525.00

Placement of 4± inches of road base gravel over the entire project site. 2,430± cubic yards of road base at a price of \$16/yard.

\$38,880.00

Subtotal

\$44,405.00

10 percent Contingency

4,440.00

Estimated Total

\$48,845.00

Department of Fish and Game has determined this project has no significant impacts to the environment or endangered species and has filed a Categorical Exemption as required by CEQA. The Department will obtain all required permits and approvals prior to construction and will administer the contract.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the parking lot as proposed; allocate \$48,845.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT AT THE LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$48,845.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Vallejo Fishing Pier (CEQA Permits), Solano County

\$30,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposed cooperative project with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District to complete the required CEQA review and documentation, along with application and filing fees for permits required for the proposed reconstruction of the Vallejo Fishing Pier. Mr. Schmidt noted that the pier, pursuant to an engineering study, is felt to have about 3-5 years of safe public use remaining. Mr. Clyde Edon of staff explained the project.

The pier, which is one of only two coastal piers owned by the Department of Fish and Game, is located at the junction of Highway 37 and the Napa River, in Vallejo. It is a conversion of a portion of the old Highway 37 Napa River Bridge which was originally constructed in 1947. The converted bridge was acquired in 1968, pursuant to Board authorization, from the Division of Highways when they completed the construction of the new bridge. Since that time, the Board has allocated a total of \$373,755 to this project for items including pier renovation costs, fire damage repair, a restroom facility, parking area and engineering reports.

A recently completed engineering report indicates that the pier has serious decay, at 15 locations along its length, where the 60 foot long concrete deck sections join. In addition, about 80 percent of the wood piles are estimated to be within ten years of the end of their useful life. The most serious condition noted in this report is the loss of strength to resist lateral and longitudinal forces which could certainly result from earthquake activity. The report concludes that if not corrected these conditions could ultimately render the pier unsafe for public use unless repairs can be completed within the next three to five years.

Preliminary cost estimates, considering six separate construction alternatives or complete pier removal, are included in the report and summarized below:

A. Repair existing wood pier "in kind" (40 year life)	\$2,470,000
B. New Concrete substructure, repair superstruct. (40 year life)	\$2,563,000
C. Reconstruct concrete pier in 2 phases (80 year life)	\$4,178,000
D. Construct new wood pier (40 year life)	\$3,292,000
E. Construct new concrete pier (80 year life)	\$3,152,000
F. Construct concrete pier, salvage & use existing deck (80 year life)	\$2,723,000
G. Demolish pier, no replacement	\$1,231,000

A review of the cost estimate summary shows option 'F' to be clearly the best from an economic and low maintenance standpoint, while continuing to provide fishing opportunities. Its cost is only 10 percent greater than option 'A', yet it has an expected useful life twice that of 'A'. While no funding is currently available to carry out any of the above alternatives, it is clear that we must move forward with a plan to restore or

remove this pier or be forced to close it in the interest of public safety.

Staff from the Greater Vallejo Recreation District and the Wildlife Conservation Board have completed preliminary hearings with permitting agencies and are prepared to move forward with the CEQA and permit application process. The District currently operates and maintains the pier under agreement with the State. They are willing to administer over the preliminary project activities and the construction contract and will contribute their administrative time as a project cooperator. This pier is an important recreational facility on the City of Vallejo waterfront, providing 78,000 visitor-days of fishing use in 1989.

The reconstruction plan for the pier proposes to build a parallel pier using the existing structure to support construction equipment. If construction cannot be completed from the existing structure, the environmental concerns and costs of construction would be significantly changed. This, coupled with the public safety issue, makes it very important that we proceed with this project as soon as possible.

The proposed CEQA process is an important and necessary element to any of the proposed alternatives and should proceed so that we are in a position to begin the project as soon as funding is made available. The District has estimated that the CEQA and permit process will cost approximately \$25,000. Allowing \$5,000 for contingency to cover unknown cost brings this funding request to \$30,000.00.

Mr. Edon noted that Mr. Dennis Beardsley, Assistant General Manager for the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that staff was not asking for an allocation of \$2.7M at this time, but was only seeking approval of the \$30,000 to cover the initial study.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding to complete the CEQA review and permit application along with filing fees for the proposed reconstruction, under option 'F', of the Vallejo Pier as proposed; allocate \$30,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Beardsley reported that in 1989 over 80,000 people used the pier, and that the usage was up last year but an accurate count was not available. He further indicated that the concessionaire was changed last year and that the revenues have offset the maintenance of the facility. He added that he was confident that the usage number had grown and was hoping that over 100,000 people would use the pier this coming year.

Mr. Schmidt responded to some questions that the pier is estimated to be stable for a period of 3-5 years. He added that we are hoping for some bond acts to pass in the next few years and if that would happen money would be available and that application for

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would be requested to offset the total cost. He further indicated that the process should be kept going, otherwise we won't be ready when the monies are available. There is currently a weight restriction on the outer third of the pier, specifically relating to fire equipment and emergency equipment. The outer third of the pier, which is deteriorating at the fastest rate, is the most desirable from a fishing standpoint.

Mr. Beardsley thanked the Board and staff for being very generous and very cooperative in making sure the pier is available to the public.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE CEQA REVIEW AND PERMIT APPLICATION ALONG WITH FILING FEES FOR THE PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE VALLEJO FISHING PIER, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$30,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Monte Rio Fishing Access, Sonoma County \$97,200.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this was the continuation of a cooperative Russian River public access project between the Monte Rio Park and Recreation District and the Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Edon showed the location of the project on a map and described the proposed project. In the spring of 1965, the Board authorized the acquisition of approximately one acre of land adjacent to several acres owned by the District. The combined property was subsequently developed as a public fishing access project with Board funding authorized at the September 1965 meeting. Since that time the District has operated and maintained this site at their cost under agreement with the Department

The project site is located in Monte Rio on the Russian River, which is one of the larger coastal streams that has a good run of salmon and steelhead located near population centers. The popularity of the Russian River as a recreation area has led to extensive development of river front property for summer homes and resorts, which has resulted in very limited public access.

This 27 year old project has gone through a major flood in 1986 and several smaller floods during that time. It is in need of upgrading to comply with the American Disability Act requirements and to restore the deteriorated parking lot to acceptable standards.

The Department of Fish and Game Engineering Section will design, prepare plans and specifications, prepare and advertise for bids, administer the construction and supervise construction of this project.

After inspecting the restrooms and reviewing the handicapped access requirements, the engineers feel it would not be advisable or cost effective to retrofit them for handicapped access. They recommend that the existing restrooms be demolished and replaced with a new, handicapped accessible building on the same site.

The pavement in the parking lot is generally sound, however, there are several long surface cracks and three large areas which show signs of subbase failure. They recommend that the areas of subbase failure be excavated and patched with 4 inches of asphalt concrete, and then overlay the entire parking area with 2 inches of asphalt concrete.

The cost estimate and items to be completed are as follows:

Demolish and dispose of existing restroom	\$ 3,500
Construct New Handicapped Accessible Restroom	64,000
2" Asphalt Concrete Parking Lot Overlay (19,200 s.f.)	22,200
4" Asphalt Concrete Deep Patch (1,250 s.f.)	<u>7,500</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$97,200

This estimate includes Contractor profit, cost escalation to 1993 dollars, and 15 percent for contingencies.

The District has agreed to amend the existing Lease and Operating Agreement to continue with the long-term commitment for Operation and Maintenance by the District at no cost to the State. The project is considered exempt under CEQA and the appropriate document has been filed for the project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the replacement of the existing restroom and renovation of the parking lot as proposed; allocate \$97,200.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING RESTROOM AND RENOVATION OF THE PARKING LOT OF THE MONTE RIO FISHING ACCESS SITE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE MONTE RIO PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$97,200.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Biaggini welcomed Senator Dan McCorquodale who joined the meeting at this time.

* 9. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$239,530.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident fish spawning and rearing habitat on eight waterways in California.

The anadromous fishery resource in California has suffered a severe decline over the past thirty years. For example, records indicate that the chinook salmon population in the Klamath River Basin has declined from a historic level of 500,000 to 180,000 by 1963, 115,000 by 1978, 55,000 by 1984 to 33,000 by 1991. One of the major causes for this decline is degradation of natural habitat due to stream and watershed disturbances from logging, road construction, mining and other activities associated with modern development. There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of artificially produced fish returning to the Klamath system since 1985. Returns of naturally produced salmon are still very low, however, due to the drought and widespread loss of habitat.

In addition, the 1964 flood, which produced record high flows in many waterways in northern California, caused serious damage or completely destroyed miles of productive salmon and steelhead habitat. In addition to thousands of cubic yards of debris and sediment being deposited in the lower gradient sections of the streams, miles of flood riffles were also created by the high flood waters.

Flood riffles are broad, shallow stream sections commonly referred to as "bowling alleys" which are composed primarily of 6 to 8 inch cobbles or boulders. These areas lack pools and provide little if any spawning or rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Some streams have usable spawning and rearing habitat that is blocked by a rock or log barrier. Modification of these barriers can open miles of good habitat that currently can not be reached by anadromous fish. Flood waters also caused the loss of bank stability and associated streamside shade canopy which is needed to maintain cooler summer water temperatures required for survival of juvenile salmon and trout. Since anadromous fish spend the juvenile portion of their life cycle in their natal stream, the need for adequate rearing habitat is a significant factor relative to the overall status of a population.

Habitat enhancement and restoration is also needed on many interior streams that support populations of resident fish species. Over the years grazing and timber harvest practices, coupled with damage from high storm flows, has caused serious impacts to many of California's smaller interior streams resulting in an overall degrading of habitat.

Many of the problems associated with the larger coastal streams are also common to the smaller interior waterways. Long stretches of some interior streams also lack the proper pool-riffle ratio and require log-rock weir structures and boulder clusters to re-create the proper habitat diversity. Unstable streambanks are common and create conditions that reduce stream habitat values.

Streambanks lacking cover generate increased sedimentation which smothers spawning gravel and fill pools needed for rearing habitat. The lack of streambank riparian growth also results in higher water temperatures, less hiding cover and a reduced food source. Some segments of streams that are heavily fished lack adequate hiding and holding cover which reduces angler success and lessens the fishing experience. Stream habitat modifications are also necessary to protect, enhance and restore populations of threatened or endangered species of fish.

The following stream restoration projects have been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. They are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish habitat and stream flows to protect fish. A Notice of Exemption or other appropriate environmental documentation has been filed for each project. The projects listed in this item are intended to correct or enhance situations identified above. The Department of Fish and Game will, in all cases, either administer projects themselves, or monitor the work of other public agencies.

Site specific information for each of the eight proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Alpine Creek Denil Fishway, San Mateo County \$15,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and New Growth Forestry, a private, nonprofit organization, to enhance the coho salmon and steelhead trout fishery on Alpine Creek which flows into Pescadero Creek in southern San Mateo County. Adequate year round flows and the close proximity to the Pacific Ocean make this stream valuable to spawning salmonids. This project is intended to improve the downstream entrance to an existing denil fishway, by enlarging its opening, thus providing lower water velocities and a more defined entrance to the fishway. The project will be administered by New Growth Forestry, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

B. Bear Creek Barrier Modification, Mendocino County \$14,200.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and New Growth Forestry, a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of steelhead trout in Bear Creek, Mendocino County. Currently barriers created by bed rock formation and debris accumulation are preventing fish from reaching spawning habitat. Three such areas have been identified as barriers to fish migration and will be modified for fish passage by deepening the existing pool. In addition, selected logs in or adjacent to the stream will be anchored to prevent movement and the formation of future barriers and provide pool habitat and cover for downstream migrants. Approximately 1½ miles of upstream habitat will be made available for spawning when this project is completed. The project will be administered by New Growth Forestry, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

C. Bluff Creek Habitat Enhancement #4, Humboldt County \$13,900.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of the construction of 14 stream enhancement structures on Bluff Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout fishery. All work will be done on U.S. Forest Service land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead. This project will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

D. North Fork Bluff/Scorpion Creeks Habitat Enhancement,
Humboldt County \$21,600.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of the construction of 21 stream enhancement structures on the North Fork Bluff/Scorpion Creeks, tributaries to the Klamath River, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout fishery. All work will be done on U.S. Forest Service land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead. The project will be completed by the California Conservation Corps crews from the Del Norte Center. This project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

E. Perazzo Creek Habitat Enhancement, Sierra County \$14,700.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service and the Tahoe National Forest to enhance trout habitat along Perazzo Creek, a tributary to the Truckee River, in Sierra County. The project will include the installation of wood structures in the stream to create pool habitat to create favorable trout habitat. Bank stabilization measures will also be taken by strategically placing log structures along the bank to reduce erosion and allow for the formation of natural cover. Willow plantings will be placed along the bank to increase the natural vegetation. The project will be administered by the Tahoe National Forest, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

F. Red Cap Creek Habitat Enhancement #4, Humboldt County \$15,000.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing 14 stream enhancement structures on Red Cap Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River, for the enhancement of the chinook salmon and steelhead trout fishery. All work will be done on U.S. Forest Service land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile fish. This project will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

G. Upper Parsnip Creek Fish Passage, Lassen County \$10,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Modoc National Forest to improve passage of fish over a cement crossing on Upper Parsnip Creek which is acting as a barrier to trout migration during the spawning season. To reestablish trout spawning habitat, this proposal provides for replacing the present crossing with a bottomless arch or box culvert structure thereby allowing for fish passage. The removal of this barrier will provide access to an additional three-quarters of a mile of year-round habitat. The project will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

H. Willits Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$134,930.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Fishery Foundation of California, a private, nonprofit organization, to enhance the chinook salmon and steelhead trout spawning in Willits Creek, Mendocino County. Willits Creek is a major tributary of Outlet Creek which is a tributary of the Upper Eel River. Chinook salmon and steelhead use the stream with limited success partially because a portion of the stream, near the town of Willits, is in need of restoration. The channel is narrow, contains unnaturally shaped reaches, lacks substantial spawning gravels and is constricted by a narrow strip of low to medium high riparian vegetation. The bank to bank width of the stream will be increased and gravel bars reestablished. With the removal of these constraints, approximately one-half mile of stream would be created for additional spawning and nursery areas for chinook salmon. Work will also include replanting of redwoods that originally filled the basin and surrounded the stream. The project will be administered by the Fishery Foundation of California, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Administrative contract costs to process the contracts for the listed projects is \$200.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these eight salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate a total of \$239,530.00; \$239,480.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19) and \$50.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), which includes \$200.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE EIGHT SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$239,530.00; \$239,480.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19) AND \$50.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), WHICH INCLUDES \$200.00 TO COVER THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Paynes Creek Wetlands #2, Tehama County

\$37,200.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, was proposing to create 20± acres of wetland habitat on BLM land at the Paynes Creek Wetland Management Area, six miles northeast of Red Bluff. Mr. Schulenburg described the project. The overall project area consists of 600 acres within the 3,780 acres of public land covered by the Sacramento River Area Management Plan and the Paynes Creek Habitat Management Plan. The area also includes the Jellys Ferry Wildlife Area, a 50± acre parcel owned by the Department of Fish and Game and operated under a cooperative management agreement to BLM.

The purpose of the project is to increase the carrying capacity of the wetlands area by 10,000 waterfowl use days during the winter months of November through April. The newly constructed wetlands would be dependent on seasonal run-off and would operate as seasonal marsh, flooding during the winter months and drying up in late June or July.

The project area is located within the major flyway between the northern California State and Federal wildlife management areas and the central valley refuge complex. It receives waterfowl use from the fall migration through spring migration and a limited amount of nesting habitat during early summer. The area is used by ducks, geese, swans and sandhill cranes during the winter, with fairly large concentrations during wet years. Currently the project area has about 80 acres of wetlands with approximately 37,000 waterfowl use days each year. Some nesting occurs by cinnamon teal, mallard, and wood ducks.

The proposed project includes the construction of two dikes, totaling 3,400± feet requiring approximately 5,023 cubic yards of fill material. These dikes will impound 20± acres of water as two separate wetlands. Water control structures will be installed in both dikes and a 36" culvert will be installed in the adjacent road to handle any increased water flows during wet years. A 24-inch channel will be constructed along the dike which will allow for the establishment of cattails and hardstem bulrush. This band of vegetation will screen the wetlands from the road, therefore providing seclusion to the wildlife species using the area. Cost estimates for this proposed project are as follows:

<u>DESCRIPTION OF WORK</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Earthwork for ponds and levee (5,023± cubic yards), including moving costs and water truck	\$29,000
Pipe & water control structure installation	3,300
Materials, water control structures, pipes, gates and valves	2,000

Administrative Costs

2,900

TOTAL

\$37,200

BLM will operate and maintain the completed project facilities in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game.

This project is supported by the Department and an Environmental Assessment has been prepared by the BLM. The project is considered exempt under Section 15304 (d), minor alteration of land to improve habitat for wildlife, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with CEQA.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal as proposed; allocate \$37,200.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B) as specifically authorized for wetland habitat (acquisition or restoration) outside the coastal zone; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CREATION OF WETLAND HABITAT AT THE PAYNES CREEK WETLAND MANAGEMENT AREA, TEHAMA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$37,200.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B) AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR WETLANDS OUTSIDE THE COASTAL ZONE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt welcomed Assemblyman Hauser and Mary Morgan who joined the meeting at this time.

11. Sonoma Baylands Tidal Marsh Restoration, Sonoma County \$35,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for a cooperative project involving Federal, State and private partners to create tidal wetlands along San Pablo Bay in Sonoma County. Mr. Schulenburg explained the project. The Sonoma Baylands project plans to restore $322 \pm$ acres of wetlands by allowing the Port of Oakland and other bay area ports and harbors to dispose dredge material in historically diked baylands near the mouth of the Petaluma River.

The Sonoma Baylands property is one of the first upland disposal areas to be identified in the State. The subject site offers an opportunity to recreate rare salt marsh habitat while accommodating nearly three million cubic yards of dredge material. As a first phase of restoration, the Army Corps of Engineers has initiated a pilot project on 31 acres of the site using dredge material from the Petaluma River. Mr. Schulenburg indicated that the intent is to enter into an agreement with the Corps of Engineers, who will be the principle contact, for a long term project of dredging spoil material from the major ship channels in the bay and depositing this material on land (hay land) behind tidal marsh dikes thus creating a tidal marsh with inlets and islands for enhancement and development of wetlands providing habitat.

Total project costs for the entire $322 \pm$ acre project are estimated to be \$1,072,000, with the Corps of Engineers paying 75 percent. The remaining \$268,000 must be provided by local sponsors. The State Coastal Conservancy purchased the property for \$128,000, an amount which has been credited towards the local matching requirement, leaving \$140,000 which is being funded jointly by several partners. The various partners and funding contributions are as follows:

Corps of Engineers	\$ 804,000
Sonoma Land Trust & State Coastal Conservancy (Land Acquisition)	\$ 128,000
Shell Trust	\$ 70,000
Pacific, Gas & Electric	\$ 20,000
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$ 35,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$ <u>15,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,072,000

San Pablo Bay and the tidal marsh surrounding the Petaluma River is important habitat for many species of wildlife including the State and Federally listed endangered salt-marsh harvest mouse and the clapper rail. In addition, numbers of species of waterfowl (dappling and divers) winter in this locality. In fact, the highest concentration of wintering canvasback are usually found in this area.

Shore birds and wading birds such as the great blue heron, snowy egret, great egret, American avocet, black-necked stilt, dunlin and least sandpiper will benefit from the creation of tidal marsh. Raptors such as the short-eared owl and northern harrier are also known to frequent this area. In addition, the establishment of tidal marsh will provide a nursery area for many species of marine fishes and will be especially important as a nursery area for the dungeness crab.

Environmental documentation for this project will be completed by the Corps of Engineers. The project will be administered by the Corps of Engineers, under the direction of the State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal as proposed; allocate \$35,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(A), as specifically authorized for wetland projects in the San Francisco Bay complex; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

In response to questions from Mr. Battson, it was noted that the EIR and other documents will consider the effects of dumping dredge material in this area. The EIR will be completed shortly and the project is proposed to get underway in January, 1994. As the EIR goes through the review process, the public will have the opportunity to comment and if any problems arise, the Board staff will know about it. Corps of Engineers has assured that prior to any dredging activity, EPA Standards and Water Quality Control Board Standards will be met. There will be a standard hold harmless clause in the contract. Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SONOMA BAYLANDS TIDAL MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT, SONOMA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE PARTNERS, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$35,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(A), AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR WETLAND PROJECTS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY COMPLEX; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Biaggini recognized and welcomed Senator Johnston who joined the meeting at this time.

12. Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County \$329,200.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 15.96± acres of land situated along Escondido Creek in the community of Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego County. Ms. Lipphardt explained the project. The property is located adjacent to 42± acres of land recently acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board and will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game as part of the Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve. Immediately downstream from the 42± acres is the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve which is managed by the County of San Diego under a cooperative agreement with the Department.

The majority of the property is in the flood plain with the year-round flow of Escondido Creek, which drains into the San Elijo Lagoon, a key feature of the property. The primary habitat types found on the subject are willow riparian woodlands, pasture areas and freshwater marsh. Waterfowl and large wading birds such as the blue heron and American egret use the freshwater marsh and open water of the stream channel. The wading birds also utilize the pasture area while the riparian habitat provides an area for songbirds and raptors. In addition, the State and Federally listed California least tern, nesting downstream at the Lagoon, forage in the open water areas of the creek.

The flood plain and wetland habitat areas together serve as a valuable open space and wildlife corridor that is an extension of the coastal flood plain to the south. The Escondido Creek flood plain also serves as an important sediment deposition area which can protect the Lagoon from siltation. This area is one of the few remaining unchannelized and undeveloped river valleys in the County. The subject property is protected from development of structures; however, grazing and agriculture activities are allowed under existing County ordinances. If grazing or agriculture were to occur, the area could be degraded, resulting in a loss of this valuable riparian habitat.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$319,200. Costs of purchase are estimated to be \$10,000 which includes costs of the appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate a total of \$329,200.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), under Section 5907 (c)(3), as designated for southern California riparian habitat that drains into the Pacific Ocean, to cover the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ESCONDIDO CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, SAN DIEGO ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$329,200.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(3), AS DESIGNATED FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT THAT DRAINS INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*13. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #5, Tulare County \$ 53,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider expanding the Allensworth Ecological Reserve by acquiring the remaining 3/7ths interest in numerous 1± acre parcels of land totalling 197.22± acres. At the August 25, 1992, Wildlife Conservation Board meeting, the Board authorized purchasing a 4/7th interest in these scattered lots. Since that time, the remaining 3/7ths interest has become available for purchase which would give full control of these parcels.

The subject land was subdivided many years ago and has remained in nearly native condition largely because the small size of the individual parcels has precluded any viable agricultural operations. The parcels are located 3 to 4 miles west of Highway 99, near Earlimart, about 5 miles north of Delano and the Kern County line. The area contains prime habitat for the State listed threatened and Federally listed endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and the State and Federally listed endangered Tipton kangaroo rat and blunt-nosed leopard lizard.

The Allensworth area is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Lands and Natural Areas Program. The Valley Sink Scrub community found at Allensworth is one of the best remaining examples in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Due to the relatively large area it covers, it provides critical habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, which requires sizable territories (1-2 square miles) for hunting and breeding. In addition, because of its significant habitat for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the Allensworth area is also recommended for protection in the Recovery Plan for that species.

Much of the land in the general vicinity of the subject property has been converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes or orchard use. In the long-term, it is almost a certainty that eventual consolidation of these small parcels could lead to their development thereby destroying their habitat values. Operation and maintenance costs for this area are expected to be minimal. The management focus is habitat preservation with potential species augmentation. No habitat restoration would be required and it would not be practical to post or fence the area until more lots have been acquired.

The owners have agreed to sell their interest in the subject land for a total approved fair market value of \$50,500. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$2,500 for title insurance, escrow fees and the Department of General Services review charges. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$53,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117, Significant Natural Area) for

the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALLENSWORTH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #5, TULARE COUNTY AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$53,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117, SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Tehama County \$657,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of two parcels of land totalling $127.88 \pm$ acres for preservation and enhancement of riparian and wetland habitats. Ms. Lipphardt explained the project. The subject is located about six miles east of the town of Cottonwood, adjacent to the Department of Fish and Game's Battle Creek Wildlife Area and within the Department's Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan (CAAP) for the Battle Creek and Cottonwood Creek areas. The existing wildlife area is an $80 \pm$ acre "horseshoe" shaped parcel that fronts Battle Creek and provides fishing and public use access to the creek.

The subject acquisition includes the west portion, a $72 \pm$ acre area adjacent to the horseshoe parcel and the east portion, a $55 \pm$ acre area located east of Jellys Ferry Road, which bisects the subject property. The west portion includes two wetland areas totalling $6 \pm$ acres and $50 \pm$ acres of irrigated pasture, which has high wetland development potential. An additional $15 \pm$ acre area on the west portion historically supported high terrace riparian vegetation and would be easily restorable utilizing the adjacent Department of Fish and Game riparian land as a seed source. Improvements on this portion include the main residence, a smaller house, a barn and horse stables. The Department intends to utilize the improvements for administrative purposes. The east portion includes $40 \pm$ acres of native annual grassland with oak woodlands, 10 acres of wetlands (including a pond), and 8 acres of riparian habitat. After acquisition, the Department plans to enhance and restore riparian and wetland habitats on the property.

The site is within the breeding territory of the State and Federally listed endangered bald eagle. Two nest sites have been documented within a mile of the subject property and this acquisition would constitute added protection of the breeding territory. Furthermore, these nest sites, along with one on Cottonwood Creek, are the only known nest sites in the valley riparian habitat type. Foraging eagles have been seen on or adjacent to the property. If bald eagles are to recover and reproduce in this historic breeding habitat, it is essential that these nests be protected and that all the necessary habitat components are available nearby. With the protection of these nest sites and continued availability of Battle Creek and the Sacramento River as foraging areas, the outlook for recovery is enhanced.

The property may also provide habitat for several additional listed species. Orcutt grass has been found on nearby parcels containing habitat and components similar to the pond on the east parcel. Sandhill cranes are known to migrate through the area and, with the creation of additional wetlands, may come to use the area more extensively. As the enhanced habitats expand and mature, valley elderberry longhorn beetles, western yellow-billed cuckoos and migrating peregrine falcons could begin to use the land. Scientific literature indicates that a large block of habitat provides greater benefits and diversity than small disjunct parcels. As fresh emergent wetlands and riparian areas are created and expanded, additional species of special concern could potentially use the site for breeding and nesting including yellow-breasted chat, Least Bell's vireo, yellow warbler, Cooper's hawk and western pond turtle. All of these species have lost habitat components due to the reduction of wetlands and riparian vegetation.

The entire corridor along Battle Creek is used by migratory waterfowl and raptors and allows movement of local species such as mule deer, ringtail cat, river otter, raccoon, red-shouldered hawk, opossum, striped skunk, great-horned owl, screech owl and many others.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject parcel at the approved fair market value of \$650,000 which includes all riparian rights on the subject. However, the owner's are retaining the appropriative water rights to the property in anticipation of being able to sell those rights in the future. Currently, the appropriative water is diverted from Battle Creek upstream and off the subject property, and reaches the property through a series of ditches. Once sold, the upstream ditch diversion would cease, sending the water back down Battle Creek and on into the Sacramento River where the water would be diverted for sale downstream from the subject. As part of the conditions of the acquisition, the owners have agreed to install a gravity flow water system to replace the appropriative rights being retained. The owners have also agreed to obtain the easements and permits necessary to install the system. The State will, however, have the use of the current appropriate water rights until such time as they are sold and the ditch diversion ceases. If the diversion ceases, then the gravity flow system will begin operation.

Processing costs are estimated to be \$7,000 which includes the costs of appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

The Department has applied to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for a \$500,000 grant to partially fund the acquisition. The CTC has approved the grant and upon completion of the acquisition will be able to authorize reimbursement to the Wildlife Conservation Board in the sum of \$500,000. After reimbursement, net costs to the Board will be approximately \$157,000.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the property as proposed; allocate \$657,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as designated for the Upper Sacramento River Basin; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation and that Mr. Don Koch from the Department of Fish and Game's Redding Office was present.

Mr. John Merz, of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, apologized to the WCB staff for not discussing his issues with them prior to the meeting. Generally, the Trust is in favor of these kinds of acquisitions, but has concern over the water rights issue and needed clarification on where the water will come from and how much it will cost, etc. He indicated that Battle Creek is a key creek relative to fisheries interest and the ongoing issue of water. Ms. Lipphardt explained that the landowner has appropriative water rights, as well as riparian water rights, which will stay with the property. The appropriative rights come from a diversion point upstream and off the property and reach the property through a series of ditches. If the appropriative water rights are sold, which is what's anticipated in the future, the ditch diversions from Battle Creek will stop, therefore enhancing fisheries. Once sold, the diversions would be taken from the Sacramento River downstream of the subject. Because the landowner wants to retain the appropriative water rights, he has agreed to install a gravity flow system from a reservoir which is located on a neighboring site. The neighbor has agreed to an easement for the pipeline for that system. The gravity flow system will provide water to the subject property and keep it in wetlands habitat which will actually enhance the existing riparian wetland habitat. Since this is a gravity flow system, there are no expenses and the landowner has agreed to pay for installation costs. Mr. Merz stated it sounded like a good deal and hoped it worked out that way.

Mr. Merz's other concern was if the Caltrans grant was an enhancement grant or mitigation grant and if mitigation, mitigation for what. Mr. Koch, representing the Department of Fish and Game, responded that it was a mitigation grant; basically,

mitigation for projects which have already taken place. The Department was able to apply for this grant because Battle Creek is adjacent to the I-5 corridor. This is mitigation for past projects; essentially for mitigation for highway construction that has occurred since 1987 and it is not regional specific. Mr. Merz stated that with this additional information, the Trust supported the acquisition.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BATTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, TEHAMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; INCLUDING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$500,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM; ALLOCATE \$657,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS DESIGNATED FOR THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 283-L,
Shasta County

\$300,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider an acquisition of $45.5 \pm$ acres of riparian and upland habitat across the Sacramento River from Department of Fish and Game owned lands at Anderson River Park, Shasta County. Mr. Howard Dick explained the location and what the project involves. This property can be accessed from Anderson by going north, across the river on North Avenue to Dersch Road, right on Clearview Drive and right on River Bluff Drive, to the river. The immediate area is slowly being developed to view homesites overlooking the river.

Riparian habitat in this area supports more than 200 species of birds and 42 species of mammals and is considered by the Department to be a very productive terrestrial ecosystem. Threatened and endangered species dependent upon these riparian forests include the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk, osprey, merlin, long-eared owl, willow flycatcher, purple martin, yellow warbler and the yellow-breasted chat. Mammals known to occur in the area include black-tailed deer, mountain lion, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, striped skunk, gray fox, red fox, bobcat, badger, ringtail, brush rabbit and the black-tailed hare.

Much of the riparian habitat has already been cleared along the Sacramento River as evidenced by Department of Fish and Game studies which show that only about one percent of the Sacramento Valley riparian forests of the early 1800's remain today. Continued public acquisition of interests in Sacramento River and tributary lands is seen as a means of not only protecting some of the valuable habitat which remains, but providing the opportunity to restore historic habitat.

The owners have agreed to sell the subject parcel at the approved fair market value of \$682,500.00. They have further agreed to receiving a cash payment of \$293,250.00 at the close of escrow and to take the balance of the \$389,250 by way of an assignment of payments received by the Department of Fish and Game from future mitigation payments at the proposed Cottonwood Creek Mitigation Bank at "Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area."

The proposed Cottonwood Creek Mitigation Bank is a portion of property which was approved for acquisition by the Board on February 11, 1992. At that time, it was anticipated that the portions of the acquired property that were most distant from the creek and contained the least riparian habitat values could be sold or exchanged for riparian lands with more significant wildlife values. Since that time, the Department has suggested that the property be considered for use as a mitigation bank and be restored and enhanced for wildlife purposes by local developers seeking mitigation credits for pending developments in the area. In essence, the developers pay cash to compensate the Department for the value of the mitigation bank property and for the anticipated costs of restoration or enhancement of the mitigation bank site. By assigning its right to mitigation bank payments, DFG has arranged for developers' mitigation bank payments, up to \$389,250.00, to be used in the acquisition of this 45.5± acre property.

This is certainly a unique acquisition and is one that staff recommended as enabling the Board to maximize the use of its available funds.

Processing costs are estimated to be \$6,750 which includes the costs of appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review. Potential State claims to the property by way of the State Lands Commission have been considered and their effect on the fair market value has been taken into account in the appraisal. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$300,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117/Riparian); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt indicated letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation and Mr. Larry Moss, an adjacent landowner.

Mr. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, raised questions regarding the Department's official mitigation bank policy, including whether mitigation was on a set formula (1:1, 2:1 or what). Mr. Koch indicated that each situation was handled separately.

After some discussion on how the mitigation concept would work, Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any further questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 283-L, SHASTA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$300,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117/RIPARIAN); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Expansion #5, Glenn County \$1,820,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the purchase of 716± acres of land as an addition to the present Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area. Mr. Frank Giordano described the area and proposal. The purpose of this acquisition is for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of interior wetland and riparian habitat which supports many threatened and endangered species. The property is located approximately 17 miles northwest of the town of Gridley. More specifically, it lies adjacent to the northerly boundary of the State's existing wildlife area, is bordered by three and one-half miles of Butte Creek on the west and other private lands to the north and east. It may be accessed off Highway 162 through the State Wildlife Area.

Wetlands and agricultural lands in the Central Valley support approximately 60 percent of the waterfowl wintering in the Pacific Flyway, which includes an estimated 65 percent of all pintails found in the United States. The subject property is located within the Butte Basin of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, an area where an estimated 23 percent of the waterfowl in the Central Valley distribute themselves.

Numerous other species of wildlife are known to frequent the Mixed Valley Oak Riparian Woodland habitat associated with the area proposed for acquisition. A search of the Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base confirms sightings of the State endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo in the riparian area between Little Butte Creek and Butte Creek. The State threatened Swainson's hawk is also known to nest in

the riparian area along Butte Creek. In addition, the northern harrier, a species of special concern and the greater sandhill crane, a State threatened species, have been observed on the subject property.

Tricolored blackbirds, although not identified on this parcel, have been located a short distance south on Butte Creek. The California hibiscus, a Federal candidate species, has been observed on the Howard Slough Unit, adjacent to the subject property. Staffs from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will closely coordinate activities to ensure that listed species and nongame species are considered in any management or recreational activities.

The proposed purchase of this 716± acre parcel will assist WCB and DFG in achieving the following goals:

- 1) To enhance agricultural lands for waterfowl.
- 2) To culture and maintain a homogeneous relationship between waterfowl management practices and rice cultural practices.
- 3) To manage and maintain lands for game and nongame species.
- 4) To address the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture objectives of enhancing waterfowl habitat on 443,000 acres of agricultural land. In addition, the acquisition will contribute toward the objective of protecting 10,000 acres in the Butte Basin.

As part of the negotiations, the grantors have required that the present lessee be allowed to continue his lease over the property for rice production and set-aside requirements (approximately 516 acres) for a period of three years (1993 being the 1st year). The rate will be at the fair market value as approved by the State Department of General Services. Grantors would reserve no other rights and state public uses would not be delayed or unreasonably limited by reason of this lease. The public could have use of the area, as Department's plans may allow, during normal waterfowl and upland game seasons. As a condition of the lease, lessee would provide water and water management on the area with the cost for the water and management being deducted from his yearly lease payment. It is recommended that the lease-back to the present lessee be structured as follows: The present lessee be allowed to complete his current lease period (3 years), plus have an additional two years upon terms and conditions that the State and lessee may agree upon. Additionally, the lessee receive an option to renew the lease for an additional five years, again, subject to the approval of the terms and conditions that the DFG and WCB may require and agree upon. This would be a ten year lease commitment, seven of which would be subject to an annual review and approval requirement. Under this plan the nonriparian areas would be managed under the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program and the riparian areas would be managed by the Department of Fish and Game.

Research reveals that there is sufficient water available for use in development and maintenance of this area as suggested with the primary source of water coming through

the Western Canal District while secondary sources would include Butte Creek, existing deep wells and drain water. The availability and reliability of the quality and quantity of this water is excellent.

Funding for the acquisition is proposed to come from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program and appropriate portions of Proposition 70, as noted below. It is also proposed that lease revenues be split equally between the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund. Expenditures for waterfowl management should also be divided equally between the two funds. The riparian area will not be subject to the lease.

The property has been appraised at the fair market value of \$1,800,000. As required, this appraisal has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services. Review costs, appraisal, survey, and closing expenses are expected to be about \$20,000. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed, including the lease-back at the approved amount; allocate a total of \$1,820,000.00 to complete the purchase from the funds and in the amounts as follows:

- (1) \$472,520.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 2720 (a), as designated for Significant Natural Areas;
- (2) \$673,740.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, as designated for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program;
- (3) \$673,740.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B), as designated for interior wetlands.

Staff also recommended that the Board authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation, California Waterfowl Association and also a letter of no objection was received from Glenn County.

Mr. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, expressed concerns regarding water issues. He also questioned the way in which the Department handles the preparation of management plans. He feels that there is a lack of opportunity for the public to express their concerns. He also felt DFG was not managing for the multiple species found on areas acquired but was concentrating on specific species, such as waterfowl. Mr. Gibbons introduced Mr. Ed Smith, from the Department's Region 4 office in Fresno, who chairs a task force within the Department which reviews, monitors and evaluates management practices on major wildlife areas. Mr. Smith explained how

the Department is attempting to manage areas with multi-species management a priority, while ensuring optimum use of the available habitat for wildlife.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER BUTTE BASIN WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #5, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE LEASE-BACK AT THE APPROVED AMOUNT; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$1,820,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE FROM THE FUNDS AND IN THE AMOUNTS AS FOLLOWS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

- (1) \$472,520.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION (a), AS DESIGNATED FOR SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS;
- (2) \$673,740.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM;
- (3) \$673,740.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B), AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Stillbow Water Delivery System, Merced County \$8,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to allocate \$8,000 for a cooperative project to construct a water delivery system in the Grasslands Water District (GWD). This project is designed to improve and enhance the water delivery and management capabilities on 2,000± acres of wetlands in the southeast portion of the Grasslands Water District. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff-Gee described the proposal.

Consistent with the goals and objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan, this project is designed to address the objective of enhancing waterfowl habitat on 292,000 acres of public and private lands in the Central Valley of California.

The East Grasslands area includes large expanses of native uplands and wetlands. Major land uses include cattle ranching, rice and row crop farming, and private duck hunting clubs. The Stillbow project is located near the Los Banos Wildlife Area and the North Grasslands Wildlife Area. In addition, the area is centrally located near the Volta Wildlife Management area, San Luis Wildlife Refuge, Grasslands State Park, Merced National Wildlife Refuge, Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge and the recently purchased Sunrise Ranch.

The owners of the Stillbow property have a long history of managing their property to benefit migratory waterfowl. The property is protected in perpetuity with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) conservation easement which requires that the property be managed as seasonal marshes to benefit waterfowl. While the property is currently flooded pursuant to the requirements of the federal easement, the water delivery system is not the most efficient and sometimes interferes with neighboring landowners flooding and waterfowl management needs.

The Stillbow water delivery project is a joint, cost-sharing effort between the USFWS, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), GWD, the owners of the Stillbow property and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The project requires the construction of approximately one mile of water delivery canal; cleaning and enlarging up to 1.5 miles of existing canal; and the installation of nine water control structures.

The project is estimated to cost a total of \$30,000 of which WCB has been requested to contribute \$8,000. The USFWS has assisted with the technical design of the water delivery system and will also be contributing \$8,000 toward the project. In addition, the SCS has completed the engineering designs and will also be contributing an additional \$7,000. The GWD will be responsible for all maintenance of the canal, water deliveries through the canal, and will also be contributing \$7,000. GWD will oversee and monitor the project for compliance with engineering specifications and provide overall project administration.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$8,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as designated for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, for the construction of the improved water delivery system; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife, California Waterfowl Association and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STILLBOW WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM, MERCED COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE GRASSLANDS WATER DISTRICT, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$8,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS DESIGNATED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*18. Mud Slough Wetlands Restoration, Merced County \$30,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to allocate \$30,000 to improve and enhance a water delivery system and water control structures on Mud Slough. The project is designed to restore 779± acres of wetlands for migratory waterfowl in the Grasslands. At the August 25, 1992, Board meeting, staff was authorized to purchase and restore the subject property and upon completion of the restoration effort, sell it subject to a conservation easement designed to protect the habitat in perpetuity.

Consistent with the goals and objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan, this project is designed to address the objective of enhancing waterfowl habitat on 292,000 acres of public and private lands in the Central Valley.

The property has been seriously affected by the drought and past management practices. The prolonged drought coupled with heavy cattle grazing has severely damaged its wetland qualities. While past land use practices reduced the value of this land for migratory waterfowl, the damage is not irreparable.

Consistent with the initial authorization, staff is now proposing to contract with the Grasslands Water District to construct a new water delivery system that does not rely on water from Mud Slough. The new system is needed because of the high selenium content in Mud Slough, rendering its water unusable.

Specifically, a water delivery and control structure on the Gadwall Canal would be constructed allowing its water to be delivered to the subject property. In addition, ditches and several levees would be repaired to enhance the water management capabilities on the entire 779± acres. According to maintenance and water engineers at the Grasslands Water District, construction costs and project administration is estimated to cost \$30,000. Included in this amount are required zoning permit fees, standby fees for water usage and water costs to flood the property for wintering waterfowl.

The construction of the water delivery and control structure will require the following capital expenditures:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Annexation Fees	\$ 1,050.00
Water Control Structure	1,500.00
Gate Valve	1,500.00
Steel Pipes & Drainage Ditch	5,000.00
Ditch & Levee Repair	10,000.00
Water Standby Fees	3,815.00
Water Costs	4,475.00

Planning & Control

2,660.00

The restoration of Mud Slough is exempt from CEQA under Section 15304, Class 4 (d).

Upon completion of restoration efforts, staff proposes that the subject area be sold, subject to a conservation easement protecting its habitat values. Net proceeds from this sale would be deposited into the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed, including the proposed sale; allocate \$30,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as specifically authorized for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, for the construction of the improved water delivery system; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife, California Waterfowl Association, and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MUD SLOUGH WETLANDS RESTORATION, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$30,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*19. Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish and Game)
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

\$451,000.00

In the fall of 1991, the Department of Fish and Game initiated a program of purchasing permanent conservation easements on Central Valley wetlands. The program is intended to ensure the preservation and enhancement of existing and restored marshes critical to the welfare of waterfowl wintering in California. The Department's long-term goal is to place at least 75,000 acres of wetland habitat under permanent easements. At the Wildlife Conservation Board's meeting of May 12, 1992, the first four proposals by the Department were approved for acquisition. Funds for this program are from Proposition 99 as specified in the Governor's Budget of 1990-91.

Guided in part by the Implementation Plan formulated by the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, the Department selects parcels qualifying for this program from among a host of properties offered by their owners. The easement purchase price is derived from a formal appraisal, as approved by the Department of General Services. Due to the continuing operation and management requirements being placed on the owners, the easement values vary depending on the agricultural potential of the property. Of course, the benefit to the State is the protection of wetland habitat in perpetuity with future costs being absorbed by the underlying fee owners.

The terms and conditions of the easement agreement permit full and exclusive use of the property by the landowner except those uses which would result in the loss of wetland habitat or the degradation of waterfowl habitat values. In addition, the Department, in cooperation with the landowner, has developed a marsh management plan for each property to be encumbered by an easement. The plan is intended to assure the development and maintenance of high quality waterfowl habitat throughout the property with each participant being responsible, at their cost, for the maintenance and water supply for their property. Although the program is aimed primarily at preserving natural marsh habitat, some portions of the property may be devoted to unharvested grain crops or "food plots". It should also be pointed out that the program is structured to allow for the acquisition of easements on those properties which are not currently wetlands, but where conversion to wetland habitat is in progress or imminent.

The term of the easement, which does not provide for public access, extends in perpetuity and the easement runs with the land regardless of changes in ownership. Should waterfowl hunting be prohibited by State or Federal mandate for a period of three consecutive years, the landowner may initiate a process which could result in the termination of the easement and reimbursement of the State's costs of purchasing the easement. Additionally, should the grantor desire to sell the encumbered property, the State has reserved the first right of refusal to buy at fair market value.

Under the provisions of this program, the Department of Fish and Game has identified a number of areas for initial acquisition consideration. As noted above, the Board has previously approved the purchase of four of these easements. WCB staff has negotiated with the owners of two more areas for Board consideration. These areas are briefly described as follows:

A. Senator Outing Duck Club, Yolo County \$319,334.00

This proposal was to acquire an easement over 480± acres of land. The property is located in Yolo County, within the Yolo Bypass, approximately five miles south of Interstate 80. The entire ownership consists of historical wetlands. The property has been farmed in the past; however, for the last several years it has been operated as a high quality duck club. The marsh management plan will eliminate the possibility of commercial farming and provide for the management of this acreage

as permanent and seasonal wetlands.

B. Yolo Basin Farms, Inc., Yolo County

\$113,500.00

This proposal was to acquire an easement over 158± acres of land which is located in Yolo County, within the Yolo Bypass, approximately ten miles south of Interstate 80. The ownership consists of historical wetlands, currently being operated as a duck club. The marsh management plan will eliminate the possibility of commercial farming and provide for management of the property as permanent and seasonal wetlands.

Each of the above properties have been appraised and the appraisals have been reviewed and approved by the State Department of General Services. Each owner has agreed to sell at the approved fair market value which totals \$432,834. It is estimated that an additional \$18,166 will be needed for appraisal, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the two proposed easement acquisitions as one item; allocate a total of \$451,000.00 from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund (P-99) which was budgeted for wetland acquisitions; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife, California Waterfowl Association, and the Mountain Lion Foundation and a letter of concern from the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE TWO PROPOSED WETLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS IN YOLO COUNTY, AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$451,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND (P-99) WHICH WAS BUDGETED FOR WETLAND ACQUISITIONS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*20. Resolution Honoring Senator Robert Presley
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Presley left the Wildlife Conservation Board in March 1993, to assume other duties within the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Presley has served with distinction as an active Member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, through his knowledge and interest in wildlife matters he has furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Presley has actively pursued the protection of wildlife habitat by authoring legislation directed at specific preservation programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, Senator Presley's sound judgment, wise counsel, and leadership, drawn from a long and continuing career in the California State Senate will be missed by the many people associated with the work of the Board, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Senator Presley our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Senator Presley.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED TO SENATOR PRESLEY.

MOTION CARRIED.

*21. Resolution Honoring Senator David Roberti
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

WHEREAS, Senator David Roberti left the Wildlife Conservation Board in March 1993, to assume other duties within the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Roberti has served with distinction as an active member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, his sound judgment, wise counsel and leadership, drawn from his long career in the California Legislature have furthered the cause of wildlife conservation and related recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Senator's earnest desire to promote this program for the good of

all the citizens of California has been observed in the accomplishments of the Board during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his contributions to the work of the Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Senator Roberti our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, and be it further

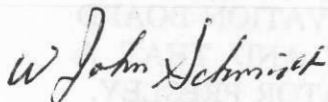
RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Senator Roberti.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED TO SENATOR ROBERTI.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. by Chairman Biaggini.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 6, 1993, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$324,400,635.39. This total includes funds reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Bond Act, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$ 16,005,271.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	18,908,800.23
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	12,907,598.99
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	467,219.86
4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,823,749.26
C. Fishing Access Projects	34,577,327.55
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,073,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,884,119.31
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,376,103.02
4. Piers	17,243,930.30
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	245,409,274.57
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$150,699,981.13
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,596,530.91
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	89,239,515.53
4. Land Conservation Area	1,247.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	872,000.00
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	-0-
F. Hunting Access Projects	533,743.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects	7,774,612.87
H. Special Project Allocations	387,095.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	<u>657,615.63</u>
Total Allocated to Projects	\$324,400,635.39